

REMARKS

In the February 14, 2005 Office Action, the claims were objected to and claim 9 stands rejected in view of prior art, while claims 10-17 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the February 14, 2005 Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 9-13 as indicated above, and respectfully traverses the prior art rejection of claim 9. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. Thus, claims 9-17 are pending, with claims 9, 10, 11, and 13 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Claim Objections

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 9-17 were objected to. Specifically, the recitation “said charge pumping unit, and said current mirror unit,” in claims 9-11 and 13 has been amended to read, -- said charge pumping unit and said bias terminal of said current mirror unit -- to overcome the objections of the aforementioned claims.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

On pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,229,362 (Choi). In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and has included the following arguments to support the traversal. Further, Applicant has deleted the previous reference to a comparator in claim 9.

Specifically, claim 9 of the present application recites a biasing unit that has a control terminal connected to the output terminal of the control unit, an output terminal connected to the bias terminal of the charge pumping unit and the bias terminal of said current mirror unit.

Further, the biasing unit controls a voltage of the output terminal of the biasing unit in response to the control current flowing to the control terminal of the biasing unit.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the Office Action fails to identify specifically the biasing unit of Choi. However, as seen in Figure 10 of Choi, the Office Action identifies the control unit as the comparator 42. Thus, according to claim 9 of the present application, the NMOS transistor MN5 would have to be the control terminal. Incidentally, the transistor MN5 is identified in the Office Action as part of the current mirror unit and possibly as part of the charge pumping unit. Further, the charge pumping unit of Choi is identified in the Office Action as MP7, MP9, MN7, what is believed by the Applicant to be MN5, and 40 and the current mirror unit of Choi MP8, MP10, MN8, what is believed by the Applicant to be MN6, and 56. However, Applicant respectfully asserts that MN5 lacks an output terminal connecting to bias terminals of the charge pumping unit and the current mirror unit that would perform as recited. Specifically, any connection between MN5 and MN6 would not have an effect on the output of 56. Applicant respectfully asserts that the statement by Choi that current I4' flows from MN6 to 46 is in error.

Clearly, this structure is *not* disclosed or suggested by Choi or any other prior art of record. It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each element of the claim within the reference. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9, as now amended, is not anticipated by the prior art of record.

Moreover, Applicants believe that the dependent claims are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claim 9, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, the dependent claims are further allowable because they include additional limitations. Thus, Applicants believe that since the prior art of record does

not disclose or suggest the invention as set forth in independent claim 9, the prior art of record also fails to disclose or suggest the inventions as set forth in the dependent claims.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

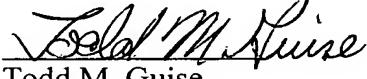
Allowable Subject Matter

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 10-17 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. In response, Applicant has amended claims 9, 10, 11, and 13 to overcome the objections thereto.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 9-17 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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